

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

I Nephi 3:187

Volume 69

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Number 10

*Sometimes the things
that seem to hurt us the most
are the very things
that bring out the best in us...
They are the struggles
that help us discover
the faith
we thought we'd lost...
the strength
we didn't know we had...
the courage
to let go of the past
and begin again...
Because challenges
help us to see
who we really are,
where we want to go,
and what our lives can be.
If only we have faith
and keep on trying.*

Author unknown

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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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PASSING IT ON

By Priest Randy Sheldon

Several years ago I introduced my dog Susquatch to the world of balls and throwing sticks when he was just a puppy. To this day nothing matters in life but his passion to retrieve something that is thrown as if this was the most important duty on earth. In our families we marvel at what begins to emerge in our children knowing of course that there are some God given inherited characteristics, and allowing for the freedom of choice, but what part did or do we play in the forming of someone such as Nephi or as the monster of Frankenstein? What are we passing on, possibly to influence future generations?

The Book of Mormon alludes to the prospect of negative influences in Ether 3:77-78. "And now Jared became exceeding sorrowful because of the loss of the kingdom, for he had set his heart upon the kingdom, and upon the glory of the world. Now the daughter of Jared being exceeding expert, and seeing the sorrow of her father, thought to devise a plan whereby she could redeem the kingdom unto her father."

She said... (v.81) "Behold, is there not an account concerning them of old, that they by their secret plans did obtain kingdoms and great glory?" v.92 "And it came to pass that they formed a secret combination, even as they of old; which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God." (Ether 4:5-6) "And it came to pass that Jared was anointed king over the people, by the hand of wickedness; and he gave unto Akish, his daughter to wife. And it came to pass that Akish sought the life of his father-in-law; and he applied unto those whom he had sworn by the oath of the ancients, and they obtained the head of his father-in-law..."

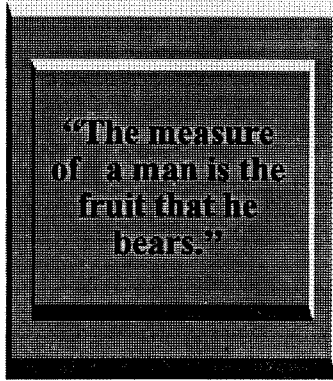
Jared passed to his daughter values he esteemed that had probably been handed down to him. In the end he lost his daughter, his kingdom and his life and gave them to another who in turn passed them on!

Zeniff reports of the Lamanites... "And thus they have taught their children, that they should hate them, and that they should murder them, and that they should rob and

plunder them, and do all they could to destroy them; therefore, they have an eternal hatred towards the children of Nephi." (Mos. 6:53)

The Bible speaks along this line of Eli the priest and his two sons, who's custom was to receive offerings from the people for what they did and many more things which things were an abomination before the Lord. (1 Sam. 2:17, 22, 29) The sons of Eli knew not the Lord (v.12) and a prophet was raised up to condemn Eli saying that he (Eli).. "honourest thy sons above me (Lord), to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings.. (v. 29) and... I will raise me up a faithful priest... (v. 35)... for I have told him (Eli) that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (1 Sam. 3:13)

Jared reaped a bitter harvest when he sowed greed and glory into the heart of his daughter. The Lamanite children were made to shoulder the heavy stone of dislike and hatred for which their children's children bear today. And Eli was condemned for his blatant unfaith-



fulness and usury, and refusal to discipline his children knowing what they were doing. He also was a recipient of the tarnished chalice handed to him with soiled hands.

In the creation, God first introduced the concept that like begets like. That means that hummingbirds always produce hummingbirds, not ostriches, that you get thistles from thistles, not figs. That sweet wells always give pure and good water, not bitter.

The measure of a man is the fruit that he bears (Jn. 15:2, 16) Our children which are an heritage of the Lord (Ps. 127:3) are an extension of who we really are, a reflection of our deepest selves and an expression of our earnest priorities. That means that our children know exactly how much we care for the Lord, and how willing we are to be obedient to his word. Very seldom do we raise kids who are greatly more righteous than we especially if our own righteousness hasn't exceeded the Pharisee's. (Matt. 5:20)

David the King of Israel never

hid his heart and desire from his people or his children, and knew how to counsel his son. "Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building." (1Chron. 28:2) Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself." (1Kings 2:2-3) Was Solomon influenced by David's sincerity? The scriptural record testifies. Solomon prays... "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad..." (1 Kings 3:9) This son received the baton cleanly and was off and running in the right direction. (Pr. 22:6)

I wanted to do some investigative reporting and some of my findings regard personalities in the Church and so against "Dragnet Policies" I,m not going to change the names to protect the innocent.

In February of this year several of us went to Yucatan Mexico for a

missionary trip. Arriving at a sleepy little town called Uayalceh we disembarked and began walking with our gear and hammocks down a goat trail fraught with boulders and depressions, the main road to the little Church of Christ. It was on this path, right on this rock where we were standing, that several years ago Leon (Skeet) Yates told a much younger man that this was his last trip—the race had been run and now stronger and surer legs must carry forth the gospel down this and other forbidding paths of the future. That young man's father was converted, baptized, and confirmed an Elder by Skeet's father. This man Ed McIndoo's door was always open to God's 'Sky Pilots', missionaries who helped conduct men's souls to heaven. Louise's (Ed's wife) fascination for the Gospel began back when at four years old traveling missionaries came to their home in Niagara Falls. These two parents walked the talk, and in their home there was no question whether they were going to church. The natural outgrowth of this kind of zeal was a little ornery kid who at four years old preached his first sermon to a couple of girls, the subject "Voice Out of the Dust."

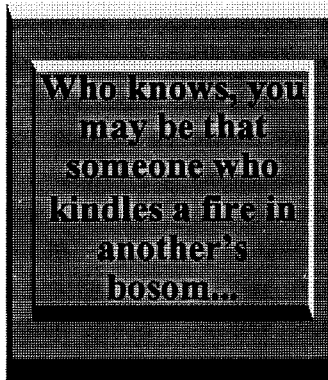
Don McIndoo was that kid and still finds himself on that road declaring that same message the difference being that he is the older man and beside him is one that is younger, Alvin (Jay) Moser. Jay comes from a long line of people who's lives have been touched by the Master's hand. Jay's great

grandfather was James Yates. Speaking of this man is his daughter Evalena in her book "Cut From The Rough"... "as a human being he made mistakes.. but his integrity was unquestioned. His ministerial work left a greater impact upon those who know him well than any other activity of his life. Our sire had nothing of monetary value to bequeath his children, but what a rich heritage was ours! They left us an example of clean living and high moral standards. They left us a knowledge of the Gospel of Christ, a love for it and a desire to reap its sure benefits in this life and in the life to come."

The Gould family goes back five generations with Leon remembered as a pastor, contributor to the Church newspaper, a lover of his family to whom he read to and sang with around the old pump organ those songs they still sing today. Leon's son Winfield undertook the rearing of a very large family by himself with just one slight encumbrance-blindness. He and those children didn't feel he was encumbered though—his determination to raise them up to love the Lord was unfettered. His son Peter sang a song recently of his "Daddy's Love." in tribute to the man who passed it on.

Francis Case was baptized in the Church in 1831 by Oliver Cowdery. His grandson Martin Monroe became a minister in the church and part of a very strong congregation in Pisgah, Iowa. When his son Maynard was just three years old the gifts

and healings of the Spirit were manifest and prevalent.. he (Maynard) having remembered and testified of them in his adult life. Maynard's son says vocal prayer was a part of the conclusion of every day. These and many more treasures were bequeathed to his children, and to their children. Leslie, one of his children, made the commitment that.. "if they were having church.. we were going." Good morality



and honesty were a way of life and still is. We can rest safely with Leslie as one of our Bishops!

A man by the name of Elder Joseph Brackenberry was the first missionary killed in service for the Church in 1832. His wife and son were driven out of Independence in 1832. This side of the family was ultimately to join with another in marriage, an Elder and missionary to England (1900's) and later a musician in charge of the choir—T.J. Sheldon. The wife of T. J.'s son, Arthur, died after having three children, thus ending the Brackenberry line there. He then remarried to Alta Case. A young man not a member of any church began to attend the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot

because he enjoyed and respected the teaching and ministry of Martin Case, Maynard's father..that young man's name is William Sheldon.

What most of these families have in common is a commitment to church attendance, high morality, family worship, a source and outlet for zeal, and an understanding of sacrifice. What these families didn't have was a pursuit and love for this world. Their focus was too large to focus on themselves, or the pettiness of this world.

"What you do speaks so loud, I can't hear what you say" may be the greatest complaint or the greatest compliment we can receive from the rising generation. We need to be ready to burnish those diamonds in the rough whether they are of your blood or someone else's.

Who knows, you may be that someone who kindles a fire in another's bosom or find a strange craft floating on the river made of bulrushes (Ex. 2:5) or simply a good mother and father taking your small boat "steady as she goes." (Hel. 2:118)

What valuable thing have we given for our posterity? As fathers have we given our son's a stone, or have we given them bread (Matt. 7:9)? As mothers have you admonished your children and aroused their faith (Alma 24:76-77, Alma 26:56)? As ministry have we been faithful to our call to the sheep (Jn. 10:12)? As lay people what part of the body are you and what part of the race do you play (1Cor. 12:14)? If we've dropped the baton pick it up

for the race is not to the swift (Eccl. 9:11) but to him that finishes, and while you wait to pick it up, there is someone waiting to receive it!

I hope at the end of our time here we can have few regrets and say with Paul.. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim.4:7-8)

This poem is the motto of the Arizona Boys Ranch.

If a child lives with criticism
He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility
He learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear
He learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with jealousy
He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance
He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with Encouragement
He learns to be confident.

If a child lives with praise
He learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance
He learns to love.

If a child lives with honesty
He learns what the truth is.

If a child lives with Fairness
He learns justice.

WHO SAID IT AND WHERE IS IT?

1. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
2. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
3. My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.
4. For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: Wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.
5. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
6. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

(Answers on page. 151)

***What does everyone have?
What does everyone read?
What does everyone enjoy?
But the Advocate has none !
Turn to page (144) for the
answer.***

THE BIBLE AND GOD

The Bible tells us about God. Sometimes the Bible is called God's Book, or the word of God. It begins and ends with God. All the content is related to Him. Indeed, if all mention of God were eliminated from the Bible, there wouldn't be much left worth reading. Actually the Bible is a revelation of God, an effort on his part to let us know what He is like and what our relationship to Him should be. It's true, that the Bible has gone through many changes, translations etc. over time, but nevertheless, it still contains the word of God. It draws no exact picture of God that could be copied on canvas, or in stone or metal, even the costliest image man could make would be but a tawdry caricature of the glorious Lord of the universe.

God is a living person: "...for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end." (Dan. 6:26) He is not merely an idea, a myth, a figment of the imagination. He is a real being.

He has a dwelling place: "Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place..." (1 Kings 8:39)

He can see and hear: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..." (1 Peter 3:12)

He also thinks and remembers: "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." (Ps. 103:14)

He is generous: "...no good thing

will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." (Ps. 84:11)

He is eager to be helpful: "...I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." (Isi. 48:17)

He is approachable: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16)

God is eternal: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8)

There never was a time when he did not exist: "before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God". (Ps. 90:2)

There never will be a time when He will cease to exist: "For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever." (Deut. 32:40)

His kingdom is everlasting: "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." (Ps. 145:13)

He is immortal: "Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever." (1 Tim. 1:17)

God is omnipotent: "Both riches and honor came of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great,

and to give strength unto all." (1 Chron. 29:12)

There is nothing he cannot do: "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." (Job. 42:2)

He does as he pleases: "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." (Ps. 115:3)

He considers nothing impossible: "...with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Mat. 19:26)

God is omniscient (all knowing) : "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings." (Job. 34:21)

There is nothing He does not understand: "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." (Ps. 147:5)

There is no word that He does hear: "For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether." (Ps. 139:4)

There are actually many revelations and scriptures given to us, to help us become closer to God. This is His wish, that we study, not only the Bible, but other scriptures as well, so we may learn and accept Him and His son Jesus Christ, so that we might be with them eternally. May God be with each one as you study the scriptures and allow His spirit to guide you.

In Gospel bonds, Priest Aaron H eath

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Hope for our children lies in the gospel of Christ. God has provided us two institutions to help our youth; they are the church and the family. We need to have strong Christian homes with strong marital and parent child relationships. However, the instilling of Christian values does not stop with the family. We look to the body of Christ as a vital instrument in bonding our youth to Christ. Everyone has a part. Here are some suggestions you might find helpful:

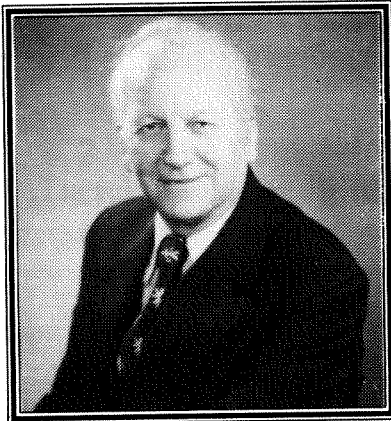
- ◆ **1. Open your home for a youth activity.**
- ◆ **2. Share your talents with the children of the church in a vacation church school, Camp for All Ages, Sunday school class, or youth camp.**
- ◆ **3. Involve the youth in service: cleaning the church, preparing pot-luck meals, visiting the sick, writing to isolated young people.**
- ◆ **4. Invite children outside your family to participate in church activities. Offer transportation to those who will not get to participate otherwise.**
- ◆ **5. Make a special outreach to church kids from single parent families.**
- ◆ **6. Offer to take a young person on a short missionary trip with you.**
- ◆ **7. If you have responsibility for planning an event such as a reunion or Camp for All Ages, consider the youth. Are there special activities planned for them?**
- ◆ **8. Locals: look for ways to involve young people on a regular basis.**
- ◆ **9. Ministry: offer to give a study or educational class for the young people.**
- ◆ **10. Take time to give a hug, an encouraging word, or a genuine compliment or word of praise.**

PARENTS:

- ◆ **1. Set a pattern for your children of Christian activity. Be consistent in your commitment, even when it is inconvenient. Attend all services; participate in prayer meetings; visit the sick; ask for administrations when you are ill.**
- ◆ **2. Have family worship in your home. Encourage your children to read the scriptures by themselves. Apply scriptural lessons in your daily lives. Children will remember the scripture that is applied easier than one memorized. Pray with your children daily, plus spontaneously as needs arise.**
- ◆ **3. Encourage your children to prepare a contribution of their talents for a special program at church.**
- ◆ **4. Encourage your children to attend church activities, especially for their age group: Junior Young People, Y. P. C. L., youth camp, children's choir.**
- ◆ **5. Communicate with your children about their church activities and friends. Don't talk negative or gossip about your church brothers and sisters.**
- ◆ **6. Teach your children obedience and respect for authority.**
- ◆ **7. Follow Jesus' example in the home. Provide an environment that promotes honesty, respect and chastity. Don't allow television shows, movies or literature that use sexual scenes and innuendoes, vulgar language, or irreverence and disrespect.**
- ◆ **8. Invite the ministry to visit in your home regularly.**
- ◆ **9. Praise your children.**
- ◆ **10. Pray "without ceasing" for your children. Pray that God will touch their hearts.**

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ISRAEL WILL BUILD THE NEW JERUSALEM IN THE U.S.A.



**By Apostle
William A. Sheldon**

Continuing the prophetic path which led the descendants of Joseph (Israel) to America, we will now consider the blessing of Moses upon Joseph. Again, as with the blessing of Jacob, we find a more extensive blessing upon Joseph than upon any others of the twelve tribes of Israel.

“And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting

hills, And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.”

Deut. 33: 13-16.

It is significant that the opening and closing statements of this text speak of Joseph’s land (distinct from that of Canaan, given of God anciently to the whole house of Israel), and of the blessing upon “him that was separated from his brethren.” Both of these statements allude to the “branches” of Israel being “stretched out, they are gone over the sea” (Isa. 16:8).

The promises to Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) in “his land” are marvelous. First of all, with the “precious things of heaven” (the heavenly gifts), but also with the abundance of earthly treasure, for the dew and precious fruits of the sun, for the precious things put forth by the moon. It is well understood that the moon, by its influence of oceanic tides, has considerable effect upon the affairs of mankind.

The “chief things of the ancient mountains” is applicable to the most ancient chain of mountains found in the eastern section of the U.S.. There we find much to supply the energy needs of this country - coal and gas- with iron , lead and many other minerals to supply industrial needs.

The “precious things of the lasting hills” is applicable to the great Rocky Mountain range of the west, extending to practically the full north-south length of the American continent-a range bulging with oil, minerals and precious stones, of gold, silver, copper, etc.

Both of these ranges are mighty sources of water, flowing into streams and rushing rivers to supply the agricultural needs, and particularly for those of our great breadbasket, the states between. Mighty forests yet remain to supply the needs of the building trades, and without which life would be practically impossible in the supply of oxygen and retention of water.

These wonderful provisions of God are certainly not limited to the

Americas, but what other continent can produce the general abundance of divine favor so fully as this? But the greatest blessing of all is in "the good will of him that dwelt in the bush" (the manifestation of God to Moses in the burning bush, w.a.s.); "the precious things of heaven"; the special work God would perform upon this continent in the revelations of Jesus Christ to the ancient Americans, and in the establishment of His kingdom upon earth in the latter days - in Joseph's land.

We have offered a trace of Manasseh's journey to this promised land, and have only affirmed that the promises made to Joseph applied as well to Ephraim. The trace of Ephraim is rather obscured by reason of the fact that he was to become lost, with others of Israel, among the nations of the gentiles, and upon the isles of the seas. The ancient nation of Israel was to wander north into Eurasia, into Europe and its northernmost reaches of the more civilized nations.

Dan may be traced to "Dan"mark, or Denmark. The Angles and Saxons (Germanic tribes) came into England. England is a derivative of the land of the Angles (Angle-land, or England), and Saxon derives from Isaacs (sax)- sons, the sons of Isaac. Some have made exhaustive studies, and determined (as I have here indicated) the traces of the northern kingdom of Israel in Europe among the gentile nations. It is a fascinating study, but it is not our purpose here to elaborate on this, but only to

offer a few clues as they may relate to the tribe of Ephraim, and of his migration to America. We will now return to scriptural evidence.

The scattering of ancient Israel and Judah is the strongest possible indication of disfavor of those nations with God, accompanied as they were with much distraction and affliction. Yet, He did not utterly cast them off, so that He might, in the last days, gather them again to the lands of their inheritance. Therefore, He continued to notice them, even if through rebuke, until they should turn to Him again. The writings of the prophet Hosea make more particular reference than any other prophet to Ephraim, realizing as we do that Ephraim may apply generally to all the northern kingdom of Israel as well as to that particular tribe, for Ephraim was the dominant, governing tribe of that northern kingdom; therefore it is sometimes identified as Ephraim, though generally designated as Israel.

Ephraim Among The Gentiles

"Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth not". Hos.7:8-9.

Ephraim has not been stable; he has been "a cake not turned", yet "strangers (gentiles, w.a.s.) have

devoured his strength". He has grown old (continued until the latter days); gray hairs are upon him, yet he knows not his heritage. He is "like a silly dove without heart" (ibid., 11).

"Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure" (Hos. 8:8). " Ephraim hath hired lovers" (ibid., 9)

The U.S. has wooed the nations with her treasures; yet have they scorned "Uncle Sap", as one has referred to "Uncle Sam". We have not gained the love of those to whom we have distributed our wealth.

"Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be to him to sin" (ibid.,11).

How evidently has this Ephraimite nation "made many altars to sin" in the multiplicity of churches dedicated to Christ, but which do not advance His pure gospel, nor gather the sheep into one fold. They are as the Pharisees of old who did "compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made ye make him twofold more the child of hell than your selves" (Matt. 23:15). Such converts, then, will seldom give heed to the pure gospel of Christ But now, note additionally :

"I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing". Hos. 8:12.

Indeed, God has written to Ephraim (where? In the land of Israel; in Joseph's land; in the U.S.A.) the great things of His law, as found in the Book of Mormon, "but they were (are, w.a.s.) counted as a strange thing". What an indictment of this nation, to which God has led Ephraim in the midst of gentiles: He has condescended to give the testimony of the ancient inhabitants to this land, is a second witness to the Christ, but it is counted as strange, even as of the devil .

"For Israel hath forgotten his maker, and buildeth temples ..." (*ibid.*, 14).

Indeed, (Ephraim, Israel) has built magnificent churches, and even "temples" as very special places of worship, and yet has "forgotten, his Maker". Consider the temples of "latter day saint" origin. Is it needful to further identify Ephraim with America, and particularly the U.S.A.? However, one last

consideration will be of interest.

In the days of Nehemiah, who was a governor (called, Tirshatha), in Israel it was found in a genealogical reckoning that some of the priests had taken wives and reared families outside of the nation of Israel, and had thus polluted themselves according to the law of Moses ; therefore, they were put from the priesthood.

"And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim." Neh. 7:65.

Our interest in this is that there would be a pollution of, the priesthood until "there stood up a priest having Urim and Thummim". We have no account of a priest having Urim and Thummim, or the holy means provided of God as an instrument to convey His word until Joseph Smith was given the interpreters, as they are called in the

Book of Mormon (Mos. 5:73, 83; 13:2; Eth. 1:99). Therefore, Joseph Smith was that "priest with Urim and Thummim", whose labors prepared the means, by the power of God, by which latter day Israel might "eat of the most holy things", as found in the Book of Mormon, and through the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth in the latter days. He was a priest of Israel, and specifically of the tribe of Ephraim. The Book of Mormon is referenced as "the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim: (Ezek. 37:19). Joseph Smith was of Ephraim the stick of Joseph came through his hand, and has been delivered into the hands of his brethren who are largely of the tribe of Ephraim; and where did that priest stand up? In these United States of America.

To be continued

A n s w e r t o p a g e (1 3 8)

' ' T e s t i m o n i e s ' '

**Share your light with others, dispel darkness. Please send your testimonies to Melissa McGhee Feature Editor Address: Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, MO 64052**



THE PLACE OF ZION MUST BE PURGED

By Apostle Roland Sarratt

*I*t is hard for those of us who are senior citizens, or nearing that age, not to be deeply concerned, if not alarmed, at what we are confronted with in our daily news. Looking back over the several decades of our lives, we can see a worsening of social and environmental conditions that are of such a critical nature that we cannot help but fear for the welfare of our children and grandchildren.

It is natural for parents to be protective of their children against physical harm, but today's world conditions not only threaten in physical ways but also mental and spiritual ways. Immoral teachings and practices have swept most free nations of the world like waves of sickness leaving the nations confused and internally weak. Yes, the future looks bleak from our viewpoint, but we need only to look to our source of truth to get our bearings and strength to meet the enemy to our souls.

Every problem in the world today can be effectively solved by looking to that source of truth Who is our Lord, Jesus Christ. The simplicity of the thought may be enough to cause most people to reject it and perhaps this article. To those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ's personal influence in their lives know that the statement is true and not over simplified or generalized. It has a much deeper meaning which reaches to the very depth of one's soul giving knowledge and conviction where otherwise uncertainty and indifference would reign.

The need for our young people to have a personal knowledge and a strong conviction of the truth of the gospel of Christ should stir the elder members of this church as well as the ministry to pray fervently for our youth and to seek ways to convey these truths as an effective counter to the influences of the world. An article in a recent edition of our local newspaper referred to a condition existing in Eastern Jackson County, Missouri, which includes Independence, the designated place for

the beginning of Zion. It stated that juvenile sex crimes are "soaring" in this area and that law enforcement officials can't determine exactly why.

It would probably be safe to say that such conditions exist in most metropolitan areas in this country. To accept this as a fact for this area, however, is disillusioning to those of us who have the expectation of a Zion community to be established here presently. The hope for the "saints" to gather at the "center place" and create a condition of righteousness, whereby all peoples who likewise desire such an environment would be attracted to come, is not being realized.

Some county and city officials were interviewed for the news item and they expressed opinions as to what is the cause of the increase of sexual crimes among the youth in this area. Pornography and T.V. were blamed, especially where adults have carelessly made it possible for the children and teenagers to view such. Children left alone for

long periods of time without proper supervision makes it possible for crimes of this type to be committed. The officials gave strong warnings to the parents to be more responsible and watchful over their children in all places that their children might be separated from them. They named such places as public swimming pools, public libraries, shopping malls, big stores and fast food restaurants with play areas.

The overwhelming reality that our beloved city has ripened to this iniquitous state is cause for us to soberly reflect upon the probability that this place will meet a devastating destruction before it will be cleansed for Zion. To face the fact that throughout this promised land adults have committed sexual crimes against children has been a horrible thing to realize. But to face the fact that children are committing sexual crimes against children in increasing numbers right in the very community that the greater concentration of the members of the Church of Christ reside should shock us.

We might ask, are we beyond being shocked? Have we read and heard about so many such atrocities that we are numb, or maybe even indifferent, to them all? Are we waiting for the Lord to do something about it?

Well, if we are waiting for the Lord to act first, we might be surprised who is going to feel the hurt first. The Lord's rebuke won't be

upon those who don't know the truth, but upon those who know and don't act.

Since the writer of this article has been so forward to suggest that we, the members of the Church of Christ and the servants of the Lord (ministry) are not absolved of such a rebuke, perhaps you are now pointing your finger this way and saying, if you know what we are supposed to be doing then tell us.

It would be presumptuous of me to try to give a complete response to such a command here, but hopefully you have already been moved into a sense of resolve, as I have, by learning of the iniquity that is encroaching upon our rightful place of influence. If nothing else, we must awaken our mental and spiritual senses to the great difference between moral righteousness and sensual wickedness. Where do we find these distinctive differences accurately defined? In T.V. shows? movies? novels? at parties? at ball games? Sure there may be some moral or wholesome qualities found in a story line or activity of such, but if we want the real truth we have to go to the source of truth. We have to go to Jesus Christ and his word. There we can loose the bands of the erroneous influences that have bound us down and we can reach up to a higher level which is described as being free to choose between good and evil.

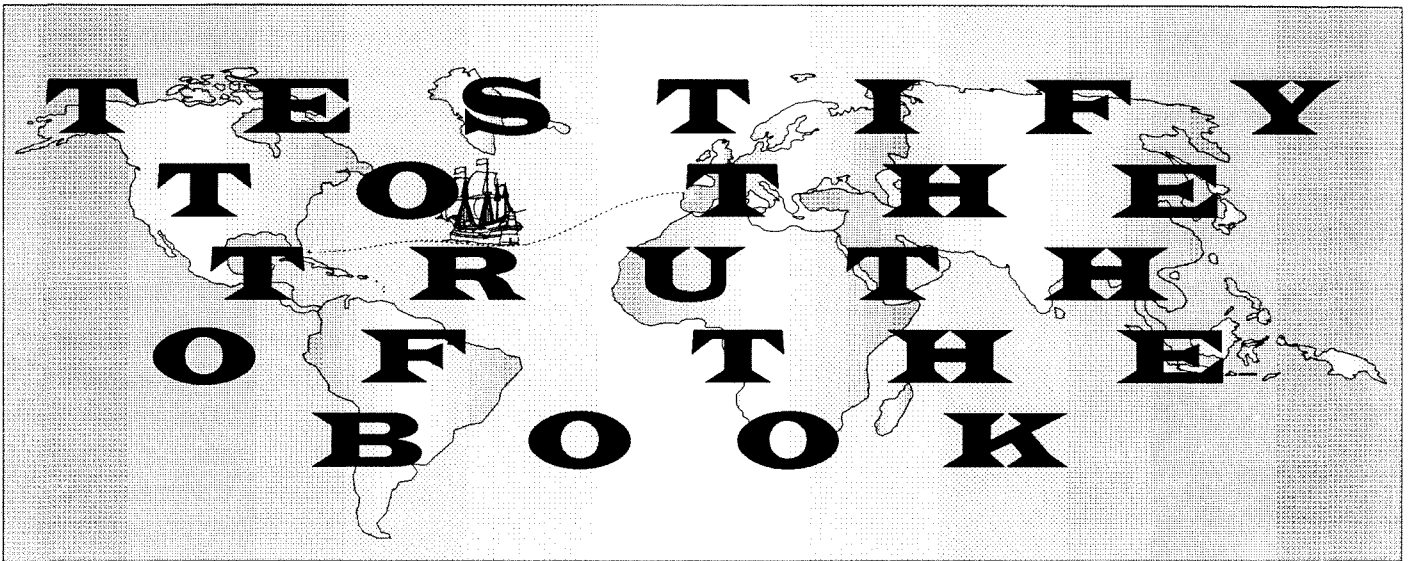
Being made keenly aware of the distinctive differences of good

and evil is an uncomfortable condition. We cannot feel at home, if you will, in the increasing movement toward wickedness. We are subject to feel extremely sensitive when we discern the evil spirit while the spirit of God is present within us. Perhaps the main point of this article is in this thought: we must become a spiritual minded people whereby we can readily discern the evil spirit when it manifests itself and be able to expose it and counter its influence with that which is good and true.

A flood of evil spirits seem to be sweeping the earth wearing down the people to an acceptance of their presence. The devil is boldly challenging all formerly accepted traditions and practices and replacing them with untried and unproven dictates by setting up unauthorized and unqualified persons in positions of leadership and influence.

How we react to this satanic assault is important to us as a people and as individuals. Each decision we make will either give us added strength to resist the devil or will put us in a compromising position with him. Only through the wisdom and strength of God can we hope to effectively meet the adversary. The word of God contains the truth that will fight against all deception and intimidation of the devil. It will defend us if we defend it.





By Apostle Donald McIndoo

The water seemed even rougher in the darkness of that October night, and the tiny ship rose and fell as the great following sea first lifted the stern only to let it plunge again into the trough as it quietly rushed on ahead. It was 10 o'clock when the Admiral saw what appeared to be a dim light ten degrees off the port bow. His heart soared and he lifted a prayer of gratitude to his God who had sustained him on this epic voyage across those uncharted seas.

The next morning, as an unknown people watched from the shelter of jungle growth, Columbus and a small party went ashore to plant their flag and proclaim possession of the new land. San Salvador he named it, again thinking of his Savior, Jesus Christ. It was a singular moment in history, As Joseph Judge¹ so accurately wrote: "The Columbus landfall is, after all, the place where worlds met with mo-

mentous consequences, igniting one of human destiny's most profound changes."

This month millions of Americans and Europeans will be commemorating that day, five hundred years ago, so unique in world history. We who believe the Book of Mormon have even greater reason to contemplate the achievement of Columbus for we recognize that the realization of his dream was the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy that would, in turn, lead to the fulfillment of others.

In his all-encompassing vision, Nephi saw the man Columbus as he planted that European flag on a tiny Caribbean island, carefully watched by wondering Lucayan Indians. Two distinct and separate worlds meeting at last on a tiny, unknown spit of land - "And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, which was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought

upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, which were in the promised land (1 Nephi 3:147)."

This description of the event, as related by Nephi, states clearly that Columbus was not the ordinary adventurer or explorer, for he was led by the Holy Spirit of God in his discovery of the New World. This is certainly not something we learned in our school lessons about the great explorers, nor is it the kind of thing today's historians, intent as they seem to be in unearthing every weakness and foible of yesterday's heroes, are likely to discuss. But we who trust in the veracity of the Book of Mormon are interested Was: Columbus a Godly man who would seek and receive Divine direction? What insights do historians give that might lend support to this vision of Nephi recorded in the Book of Mormon? We shall examine a few.

Granzotto² wrote that Columbus "... felt predestined, chosen for a mission. He had an uncanny pro-

phetic sense of the things that lay in store for him. In the end he looked past the geographers, astronomers and philosophers and sought interlocutors among the prophets. The Bible came to his aid.”



And Morison³ tells us, “He was Man alone with God...Always with God, though; in that his biographers were right; for God is with men who for a good cause put their trust in Him, ...there can be no doubt that the faith of Columbus was genuine and sincere, and that his frequent communion with forces unseen was a vital element in his achievement. It gave him confidence in his destiny, assurance that his performance would be equal to the promise of his name (Christ bearer - dem).” This is why, as he left the Canary Islands on September 9th to begin man’s most notable adventure, he could write in his log with confidence that he was beginning this voyage *como Dios manda* - as God ordains.

Certainly, most important would be the personal testimony of the Admiral himself. Marshall and

Manuel⁴ have discovered just such a document and quote from an obscure volume written by Columbus: “It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures ...”

We readily see there is ample evidence to support the prophetic vision of Nephi. Once again the Book of Mormon, if not poor Columbus, is vindicated. The great explorer died in disgrace and relative poverty. Even during this month of celebration many shall speak evil of him. Certainly the Indian people have cause to regret his discovery. Just forty years after he was hailed by the natives of San Salvador this great tribe of the Indies was extinct. Subsequent exposure to the European conquerors has not been kind to any of the tribes in America. One can only pray that the prophecies of great future blessing to the Indian people will soon be realized.

There is no doubt Columbus, for all his frail humanity, was a man who believed in God and was used by God to fulfill prophecy of which he was unaware. Through the remainder of his life Columbus believed he had discovered a direct route to the riches of the Orient, though what he really accomplished

was to be of far greater value. The 19th century historian, Hawthorne⁵, considering both the magnitude of Columbus’s discovery and his delusions concerning it, wrote, “How blind a tool is man in the hands of the Almighty....”

And I shall not soon forget that this is precisely where the Admiral of the Seas wished to be. On May 20, 1506, in the presence of a few friends and relatives Columbus quietly repeated the words of the Master, “Unto your hands, Father, I commend my soul.” and began his greatest and final voyage.

1. Judge, Joseph, “The Island of Landfall”, National Geographic, Nov. 1986, p. 568.

2. Granzotto, Gianni, Christopher Columbus, p. 56.

3. Morison, S.E., Admiral of the Ocean Sea, pp. 46 & 47.

4. Marshall, Peter and Manuel, David, The Light and the Glory, p. 17.

5. Hawthorne, Julian, Spanish America, p. 62.



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Revenna News

Greetings from Church of Christ Local, Revenna, Michigan. At our prayer meeting Sept.. 9th our Pastor Elder Gale Brantner, read about Christ's glory when he comes.

Brother Aaron Heath gave us a special, a song he wrote. I believe given to him through the Divine Spirit. All about things God made on earth. Brother Gale believes that the Book of Mormon was brought forth to let the Indians know of God and that the Gospel was true for them and us.

Our next prayer meeting Brother Gale chose the song 'Just As I Am'. He spoke in the Gentiles denial of Christ. We have to believe in order to teach others. The Gentiles have dwindled in unbelief and built other churches. Brother and Sister Max Spencer have gone to Texas taking his mother to his brothers. We miss them, Brother Gale and niece Debbie and daughter left today for Wisconsin. We will miss them too at church.

Also a good sermon in Sept. by Elder Max Spencer about the bread of life. He mentioned the real need for love of one another.

Sister Lowis Heath

Flint Local News

Hello from Flint Local. The Lord has been very good to us with his many blessings. If we submit our lives to Him He will direct and richly bless us all. Lately we have been greatly concerned for those struck by the hurricane, our earnest prayers along with yours I'm sure go to our Heavenly Father for them. Also for the ones who are starving in Samalia, it hurts to hear about what is going on there, please pray for them also. As usual we are trying to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in truth and righteousness, but we would appreciate your thoughts and prayers for the work of the Gospel as we pray for the work throughout the Church family. It is an important task with many rewards along the way, many struggles from time to time, but things can always turn out with Gods help. If we do his sweet will he abides with us still.

Your Brother in Christ
Priest Adam Porter

**Farmington Local News
August 17, 1992**

In the trust of the blessings of Jesus Christ in each of your lives, the Farmington Local also adds it's testimony in the monthly report. The blessing of the freedom we enjoy as a

nation was apparent in a sacrament service, in July, as Church of Christ members reflected on Independence Day through testimonies and word sung in the familiar hymn, "America."

During the sacrament service, the Farmington local was also reminded of how God cares for all His children as Brother John Gill told of his work with the Hmong. The Hmong are in need of your continued prayers and support. It will be so wonderful to see the Hmong become part of our fold, and we look forward to the day we can fellowship together.

In the month of July, God brought many visitors together in fellowship with the Farmington local who included: Brother John Gill and family, Carlos Calix, Sam Gould Junior, Martin, Maria, and Martin Junior Peha, Ernest Messer, Chris Pettitt, Thor Taylor, and Joe Carney. Some of our visitors were able to join us in a meal, and it was amazing to see just how alike Church of Christ members are in thought as we sat together, for potluck, and were served four dishes of beans that were prepared by four separate house holds.

Individuals, who assembled in church, also had an opportunity to further express their thoughts by voting on the 1992 referendum. Scattered members in Wisconsin were also able to vote on the referendum when Brother Merlin Eddy and his family traveled to Wisconsin.

The Farmington Local's young people's group, "Zion's Children", also has a chance to express their thoughts in a meeting where they decided on what design to have printed on tee shirts as a witness of their belief in Jesus Christ. The design for the tee shirts will center on "The Whole Armor of God." On the front, in the upper left hand side the shirt will state, "Soldiers of Christ, our weapon is love." A scroll, gold plates, and sword representing the sword of the Spirit, will be above the words. The back of the shirt will say, "The Whole Armor of God," with verses from Ephesians 6:14-17 and pictures to represent the words.

The Church of Christ, Farmington Local was further told how we should care for our armor through a sermon by Brother Merlin Eddy when he stated, "some things we should stop doing, and more things we should start doing," and "we have a couple of road maps or guidelines which are the Book of Mormon and Bible."

September 1, 1992

The servants of Jesus Christ, Brother Merlin Eddy and Brother John Gill, were both led to preach, on separate occasions, on the necessity of works of righteousness coinciding with a belief in Jesus Christ. Also, in the adult Sunday school class, the Sunday school teacher, Ed. Linton, reminded us that the Holy Spirit will give words to believers to say in times of need to assist unbelievers. As a result, when the Farmington Local

tried to do and earnest work in spreading the gospel at the 1992 Dakota County Fair, in August, we prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide us on how to properly respond to those who attended the fair as they stopped by the Church of Christ fair booth.

This year, it was decided that the background for the booth would consist of: Christ's own words from third Nephi 5:33-34 which state, "The Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me; and whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved;" a large model of the Holy Bible and Book of Mormon; and the wording from second Nephi 12:60, "I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another," between the two books. These words spoke to quite a few fairgoers as they stopped by the Church of Christ fair booth to discuss the scriptural content of the message and find out more about the beliefs of the Church of Christ by picking up pamphlets. During times when my husband and I tended the booth, we noticed observers who would not come up to the booth but would read and ponder, from afar, the selected words (repent, believe, baptized, and saved) in bold red print along with the blue lettering. We hope the message touched the hearts of all of God's children who are without the truth. Furthermore, the Farmington Local could use your prayers as we follow-up in contacting those who left their names.

Members of the Farmington Local tried to put their belief of Jesus Christ into action by helping raise money, for a house in Nicaragua, for Jahaira Pena's mother. Many of

"Zion's Children" were active in preparing and serving food at the fund raiser.

The young people have also been learning how to run the computer operated organ that plays music to hymns used during church services. The music accompaniment is very helpful, and we are thankful for the time and effort John Gould has contributed in programming it. We also appreciated the song special John Gould offered, in August, when he sang a song written by Brother Thomas Maley.

Visitors, who were in the audience during the song, were touched by it, and we hope all our visitors are touched as much as they touched our lives. We enjoyed visiting with: Dug Ferrier, Anabell Ramirez, Heidi Hall, Bethany, Zachary, and Katrina Harpster, Jessica, Angie, and Brad Messex, and Brother John Gill and family. We welcome all members and ministry alike to come and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with us.

Mrs. Patricia Gould

Cowgill Missouri News

A sincere Hello to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Cowgill.

I will try and give a short report on what has been happening at Cowgill this summer. On June the seventeenth, Randy Sheldon brought a bus load of young people to our church. Randy said we would sing until we raised the roof, we did, and it was wonderful hearing all their pretty

songs and voices together. We hope they will come again soon. We are always thankful for the Ministers that come to preach the Gospel of Christ to us.

In May Shirley and Delbert Bailey moved from Lamoni, Iowa to Kingston, Mo. and have been coming to services. We have been blessed with a pianist after a year, since the loss of our blessed Sister Mary Lois Bryant.

In the last month we have been blessed with another family, Peter and Elaine Gould and their six young children moved from Warrensburg to Lathrap, Mo. He is also a pianist.

Sister Lois Harris now has a junior class of seven and some times eight. It's a joy to see these little ones show us what they had learned about Jesus.

We have had two babies blessed this summer. The little daughter of Aron Isabel and his wife was blessed on April 19 by Brother Loren and Gerald Bryant. On August 23 the infant daughter, Eva Maree, of Peter and Elaine was blessed by Brother Frank Fann and Brother Loren Bryant.

We are thankful for all these blessings and pray that God will continue to bless all of the Church of Christ.

We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us.

Your Sister in Christ
Reporter Elizabeth Christ.

Obituary

Dorothy L. Wilson

Dorothy L. Wilson, age 79, of Houston Missouri and formerly of Black River Falls, died Monday, August 10, 1992 in the Fort Leonard Wood Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The former Dorothy L. Eddy was born on October 25, 1912 in Jackson County to Charles and Edith Eddy. She later married Jess E. Wilson and he died on Sept. 1, 1975. She was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Independence, Missouri.

Survivors include two sisters Marjorie Cain and Beverly Hesse, both of Black River Falls; three brothers, Cecil Eddy and Donald Eddy both of Black River Falls, and Merlin Eddy, of Eau Claire, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held August 13, 1992 with Apostle William Sheldon officiating at Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Interment at Riverside Cemetery.

Reunion Notice

The 1992 Phoenix Reunion will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday November 27, 28, 29, at the Phoenix, Arizona Local. We would like to invite all to come and worship with us at that time.

For information concerning housing contact:

Elder Brian E. McIndoo
18824 N. 39th St. Phoenix, AZ 85042
(602) 867-7063

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 39th St. Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 867-7681

RESULT OF 1992 REFERENDUM

Referendum bill #1. of 1992 has been passed by a vote of 248 in favor and 84 opposed.

This bill was in regard to members of the Church who subsequently join another church without notifying this Church of Christ; that after verification, the church Recorder, when authorized to do so, is to remove the name from Church records, and to so notify such members.

William A Sheldon,
Secy.. Pro-tempore,
Council of Apostles

Answers to

WHO SAID IT AND WHERE IS IT? (from page 138)

- 1. John the Beloved, 1 John 4:8
- 2. Twenty-four elders, Revelation 4:11
- 3. God speaking through Isaiah, Isaiah 46:10
- 4. Lord God through Ezekiel, Ezekiel 18:32
- 5. Peter, 2 Peter 3:9
- 6. Jesus, John 6:40

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1993 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 4. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 5. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 2 and 3. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1992 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19 through 21, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Price Each

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$ 4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Leather)	20.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Missionary)	7.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Cloth)	18.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Leather)	24.00
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Temple Lot Deed	.30
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The balance of these General Church Publications are free of charge.*

A Brief History of the Church of Christ
 The Principles of the Gospel - Faith & Repentance
 The Principles of the Gospel - Laying on of Hands
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 The Latter Day Restoration
 The Book of Mormon (tract)
 Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
 Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
 Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
 What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
 Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
 Priesthood - Divine Authority
 Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
 A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
 First Presidency or First Apostles?
 Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
 Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
 Zion and the Temple of the Lord
 Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
 God's Purpose in America
 The Great Plan of Redemption
 The Cost of Salvation

*NOTE: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
 (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

Sunday School Materials

Send orders for SS Materials to Becky Sheldon, 31607 E. Major Rd, Grain Valley, Mo 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

Church History for Juniors - includes a Teachers Guide
The Book in the Stone Box - About the Book of Mormon
Bible Stories to Grow By - 52 lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7
Jesus' Life and Teachings - 4 quarterlies for ages 8-10
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The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

Out of the Dust (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

Light at Evening (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

A Lamp Unto My Feet (32 minutes) — Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

The Return (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

Holy Scriptures on Audio Cassette Tapes

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set for the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it

Sermons on Audio Cassette Tapes

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136.

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and address are listed on the inside front cover.